

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**CLAIM NO: QB-2021-002952**

**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**

**MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

**CLAIM FORM ISSUED on 30 July 2021**

**B E T W E E N:-**

**SUSAN MARY HAMBLIN**

Claimant

**- and -**

**NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED**

Defendant

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**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

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**AMBER COURTIER, SOLICITOR FOR THE CLAIMANT**

My Lord, in this action I appear for the Claimant, Susan Hamblin, who is an interior designer.

My friend Jeffrey Smele appears for News Group Newspapers Limited, the publisher of The Sun online.

On 2 and 3 July 2020 and 14 June 2021, The Sun online published three articles and a video reporting on a US legal claim alleging abuse by Jeffrey Epstein.

These included allegations that Susan Hamblin had groomed and procured a 16-year-old woman to be sexually abused by Epstein, and had told her that Epstein would kill her and her family if she told anyone what Epstein had done. The articles said that while the young woman was being raped by Mr Epstein, Ms Hamblin ignored her cries for help and when the rape ordeal was over, paid her \$500. The articles also alleged

that Ms Hamblin bore responsibility for the young woman suffering great distress, including suicidal feelings, prompting the woman to self-harm.

These allegations are untrue. Ms Hamblin never met the young woman let alone engaged in any of the conduct alleged.

I am pleased to say that The Sun online has now accepted that these allegations were false. The Defendant has agreed to apologise to Ms Hamblin for the distress caused to her, including by her being unable to comment or explain before publication that the allegations were untrue. It has also removed the articles and agreed to pay her substantial compensation and her legal costs.

**JEFFREY SMELE, SOLICITOR FOR THE DEFENDANT**

On behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited, I accept what my friend has said. The articles in question have been withdrawn and a fair and accurate report of this statement is being published on The Sun online.

The Defendant offers its apology to the Claimant and is pleased that the matter has been amicably resolved.

**SOLICITOR FOR THE CLAIMANT**

On that basis, the Claimant is content to let the matter rest.